

REMARKS

*Summary of the Amendment*

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, claims 58-68 will have been added. Accordingly, 30-37, 39 and 41-68 will be pending with claims 30, 48, 55 and 57 being in independent form.

*Request for Entry of the Instant Rule 1.312 Amendment*

This Amendment is being filed subsequent to the mailing of a Notice of Allowance on April 9, 2004, but before payment of the issue fee. Applicant requests entry of the instant Amendment in order to ensure that the application issues with comprehensive coverage for the invention.

Applicant submits that the instant amendment does not raise new issues and would not require further search and consideration, at least because: each of the new claims depends from an allowed independent claim; new claims 58-61 find clear express support in the original disclosure on page 65, lines 10-12; new claims 62-64 find clear express support in the last three lines of allowed independent claim 55; and new claims 65-68 find clear express support in the original disclosure at least on page 3, lines 19-20, and page 4, lines 12-14 and 17-21.

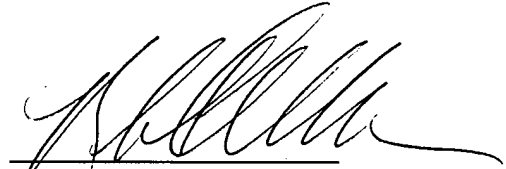
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Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to approve entry of the instant Amendment and to indicate allowance of all the claims therein. The Examiner is also requested to contact the undersigned to discuss entry of the instant Amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to refund excess payments and charge any additional fee necessary to have this paper entered to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred ZACOUTO et al.

  
Neil F. Greenblum  
Reg. No. 28,394 *35,803*

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191